Role of Panchayti Raj System in Rural Development of Rajasthan

(An Empirical Study to Jaipur District)

A Synopsis

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INTRODUCTION:

Good governance is considered as the control idea of Development. A system of structured governance empowers the government to deliver services to the citizen and to mobilize resource and revenue for the societal development. In addition, it can only be achieved by participation of the different stakeholders of the development process. Because of its size and its relatively ambitious efforts to decentralize government, India provides an important context for understanding the ways in which decentralization can improve the performance and accountability of local government.Panchayats have been the backbone of the Indian villages since the beginning of the recorded history. Panchayat Raj is a system of governance in which Gram Panchayats are the basic units of Administrative. Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been involved in the programme implementation and they constitute the core of decentralized development of planning and its implementation. Panchayat Raj Institutions aim at translating the Gandhian dream of village self-governance (Gram Swaraj) and to become an effective tool of rural development and reconstruction.Panchayati Raj is a system of rural local self-government and its contribution could be visualized in the short term, middle term and long term perspectives. It encourages micro level planning and development programmes by mobilizing and utilizing the locally available resources and this setup gives ample opportunities to the people to take part in the process of planning and implementation of the development programmes taking into account the felt needs of the people.Panchayati literally means assembly (yat) of five (panch) wise and respected elders chosen and accepted by the village community. Panchayat OrPanchayati Raj is a system of governance in which gram panchayats are the basic units of Administrative. It has 3 levels: village, block and district. The term ë-panchayat raj is relatively new, having originated during the BritishAdministrative. Ë-Rají literally means governance or government. Mahatma Gandhi advocated Panchayati Raj, a decentralized form of Government where each village is responsible for its own affairs, as the foundation of Indiaís political system. His term for such a vision was Gram Swaraj (Village Self-governance). It was adopted by state governments during the 1950s and 60s as laws were passed to establish Panchayats in various states.

In the history of Panchayati Raj in India, on 24 April 1993, the Constitutional (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force to provide constitutional status to the Panchayati Raj institutions. This Act was extended to Panchayats in the tribal areas of eight States, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan from 24 December1996. Now Panchayati Raj System exists in all the states except Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram. Also all the UTs except Delhi. The Act aims to provide 3-tier system of Panchayati Raj for all States having population of over 2 million, to hold Panchayat elections regularly every 5years, to provide reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Women, to appoint State Finance Commission to make recommendations as regards the financial powers of the Panchayats and to constitute District Planning Committee to prepare draft development plan for the district.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

To know the study of historical background& to make the research topic more authentic or reliable following literatures are used :

The Ashok Mehta Committee (1978) was set up to enquire into the working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and to suggest measures for strengthening them soon to enable centralized planning and development in order to be effective. The Committee suggested that the formation of structure, functions, and utilization of financial, administrative, and human resources on Panchayati Raj Institutions should be determined on the basis of emerging functional necessity of administration of rural development.

B.S. Bhargava (1979) has discussed issues and problems in regard to panchayati raj movement in the country in general and Karnataka in particular. Efforts have been made to discuss major recommendations of the Asoka Mehta Committee with a view to highlight issues and problems of great significance in reforming panchayati raj. Finally, he suggested that there is a need for rural development to strengthen the rural infrastructure for development, faith in panchayati raj and timely elections to these bodies.

S.K. Singh's article on '73rd constitution Amendment: An Analytical Framework', summarizes the main provisions of the 73rd Constitution Amendment Act , and then while noting the important new elements, sought to be injected into Panchayi Raj Is , it focus

attention on the areas that" leave scope for rendering the Panchayats with powers and urges on to take remedial steps.

K.V. Palanidurai in his article 'Democratic Decentralisation in India - Retrospect and Prospects', has traced chronologically the developments relating to the establishment of local self- government Institutions in the country. He has narrated the experience of few States which have attempted democratic decentralization. As pointed out by the author that still the position has not altered from 1978. He concludes that unless function- sharing and power sharing process begins with appropriate follow-up measures by the Central and State governments, it is difficult to achieve desired results.

B.P.S Bhadouria and V.B Dubey in Panchayati Raj and Development; clearly brings out the administrative and political decentralization is meaningless without financial decentralization

Venkatesan's book Institutionalizing Panchayati Raj in India' is an exceptionally insightful account of the nationwide attempt at decentralization in India in the early 1950s known as the Community Development programme. Tracing the growth and decline of this program and of other decentralization program started since then, the author identifies three Forces: political factor, bureaucracy, and international organizations and bilateral devours, responsible for blunting, the effectiveness of decentralization. The concluding chapter gives an account of the future challenges facing Panchayati Raj Institutions.

K.B. Shukla's contribution "Panchayati Raj Revisited", is a detailed analysis of the report of the Asoka Mehta Committee on Panchayati Raj Institutions (1979), which maintained that the remodelling of the Panchayati Raj Institutions, formulation of their structures, functions, and the utilizations of financial, administrative and human resources of these institutions be determined on the emerging functional necessity of management of rural development.

In his essay, "Organisational Analysis of Panchayati Raj", S.N. Dubey has pointed out some organizational dilemmas of the Panchayati Raj system and organizational relationship among the personnel working in the block administration. He also focused the multiple system of ~ontrol over the staff, supervision of technical staff by the generalist administrators.

A.M. M. Zakir (2011) Meaningful participation of the people is the vital requirement in strengthening the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Gram Sabha is the corner stone of

strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions. People's active participation in Gram Sabhasmake development process sustainable

Ajay S Singh (2017) PRIs are being provided with responsibility to discharge developmental and other social functions. Functions to be transferred to PRIs need to be done with close assessment of local requirements and capacity to handle them. With capacity enhancement, handling of the assigned functions would become effective.PRIs may be trained to manage book keeping and reporting with due disclosures. PRIs would become well managed with clearly defined rules of engagement and deployment of functionaries and adequate autonomy provided for better decision making.This would result in decentralisation of power and democracy in the same manner as envisaged by Gandhiji in his Gram Swaraj model of Panchayati Raj.

Dey, Subhasish (2018)has felt that there is a need for an innovative thinking on how to use the available resources to create jobs and construct useful rural infrastructure.

The amendment made it obligatory for the states to establish PRIs in accordance with the act, and the Gram Panchayat, PanchayatSamiti, and ZillaParishad were introduced as elected local bodies. The Sarpanch, also known as *panch*or *pradhan* in different states became the elected head of the Panchayat through a formal electoral process. The Gram Sabha is recognised as the people's parliament at the village level—the lowest level of Administrative and comprises all adult members of the village. It has the power to plan, approve, and monitor various development programmes for its village. It has a constitutional mandate, and the elected PRIs are accountable to the Gram Sabha.

JephiMadonna (2018) Each village has its own set of issues, which only the locals can understand. Members of a Panchayat are far more cognizant of the region-specific problems, and thus they are capable of taking a more informed decision in favour of the people of their village. Taking into consideration the specified needs of their inhabitants, the panchayats work accordingly. The panchayats undertake works of varied levels starting from creation of necessary establishments such as primary schools, to hygiene-related issues, to water requirements, to seek the central government's help towards generating jobs at the village level as well. They also have a major share of contribution towards mobilization of local resources, encouraging, large-scale community participation, planning at the lower levels, reduction of corruption as well as improvement in quality oh nations working.

E-panchayat is one of the Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under National e-Governance Programme (NeGP) and it aimed at making Panchayats more efficient, transparent and symbols of modernity by leveraging ICT to become modern institutions of self governance at the cutting edge level by ensuring greater openness through transparency, disclosure of information, social audit, efficient delivery of services, improving internal management of Panchayats, procurement etc.

G.Palanithurai Role and performance of the PRIs can improve to a great extent if the representatives are able to involve the rural people in the various activities of these institutions and make them to draw maximum benefits out of the schemes introduced through these institutions. This can be ensured if the people are informed from time to time about the various rural development schemes, programmes and the decisions taken by the PRIs for administering rural development.

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OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH:

My research is inspired by following objectives :

1. To study the role of Panchayati Raj System in Rural Development in Rajasthan.
2. To verify the roles and responsibilities of Panchayati Raj System in Rajasthan.
3. To study the effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Systemas an Organisation, Management &Administrative performance in India.
4. To draw policy implications for improving the functioning of Panchayati Raj System in Rajasthan.
5. To examine the problems and challenges of Panchayati Raj System in Rajasthan.
6. To suggest suitable measures for the effective functioning .
7. To give suggestions for the better implementation of policies & development.
8. To evolve strategies for monitoring of the programmes.
9. To study the role of PRI's for the development of opportunities.
10. To identify bottlenecks in the development process & take corrective measures.
11. To ensure change in organization , management & Administrative performance.
12. To examine the present status of the development of Panchayti Raj System in Rajasthan.
13. To analyze various aspects, issues and dimensions related to Panchayati Raj System.

AREA OF RESEARCH :

My research involves Jaipur district of Rajasthan's Panchayati Raj System. Founded in AD 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan is popularly known as the Pink City. With broad avenues and spacious gardens, the city is steeped in history and culture. Here the past comes alive in magnificent forts and palaces, blushed pink, where once lived the maharajas. The bustling bazaars of Jaipur, famous for Rajasthan jewellery, fabric and shoes, possess a timeless quality and are a treasure-trove for the shoppers. Planned by Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, Jaipur holds the distinction of being the first planned city of India. Renowned globally for its coloured gems, the capital city of Rajasthan combines the allure of its ancient history with all the advantages of a metropolis. Jaipur rises up majestically against the backdrop of the forts Nahargarh, Jaigarh and Garh Ganesh Temple. The bustling modern city is one of the three corners of the golden triangle that includes Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. The story goes that in 1876, the Prince of Wales visited India on a tour. Since the colour pink was symbolic of hospitality, Maharaja Ram Singh of Jaipur painted the entire city pink. The pink that colours the city makes for a marvellous spectacle to behold. The subject of this study is Jaipur and it is assumed that the Panchayat will play a crucial role in rural development in the state.

RESEARCH DESIGN:

Research Design refers to aset of methods and procedures that describes research variables. The research was conducted under explanatory research methodsince explanatory method is where a researcher has an idea or has observed something and seeksto understand more about it. An explanatory research project is an attempt to lay the groundwork that will lead to future studies or to determine if what is being observed might be explained by currently existing theory and it attempt to connect ideas to understand cause and effect means researchers want to explain what is going on.

In the light of objectives of the study, a systematic research design is drawn. The relevant data for the study will collected through primary, observations, interviews , schedules and secondary sources. Samples of 500 beneficiaries of various Panchayati Raj Institutions were taken to assess the impacts of the various development schemes/programmes on their lives.

The Secondary sources comprised of official records of Gram Panchayat. Separate questionnaires will be used for collection of information from Gram Panchayat members, and rural poor tribal people, who have taken assistance and other benefits under the jurisdiction of Gram Panchayat. A questionnaire Will be prepared which comprised questions on various aspects to study the Role of Panchayti Raj System in Rural Development of Rajasthan(JaipurDistrict)

Research tools such as interview schedule and observation will used. The primary sources of data are collected directly from the respondents by administering a pre designed questionnaire/ schedule. Interview schedule for the elected Panchayat Raj Institution's Presidents of Village Panchayat Raj was the tool for Data collection, prepared consisting of various relevant questions pertinent to understand their socio – demographic profile. Apart from the interview schedule related to Socio – demographic details, self prepared Interview schedule was developed and standardized for the study. The data was collected by administering the pre-tested interview schedule to the selected respondents. The respondents were personally interviewed which enabled the researcher to get the first hand information and gave an opportunity to observe the respondents personally. It was made sure that the respondents correctly understood the questions by asking the questions in English language and repeating questions, whenever necessary. Friendly, atmosphere was maintained during the interviews to see that the respondents were at ease and expressed their opinion freely and frankly. The data so collected were recorded directly on the schedule.

The secondary sources of data include the reports of the Gram Panchayatconcerned an annual report published by Panchayati Raj Institution's planning officer in India.

Present study is mainly empirical and descriptive in nature and based on primary data. The study also focused upon the roles and responsibilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions. The researcher also examined the problems and challenges faced by the Panchayati Raj Institutions in India. The study also draws policy implications for improving the functioning of the PRIs in India.

Sampling Method & Selection of Samples:

The design of the sample is comprised of mainly two elements. Random sampling from a restricted population indicates to the method of the sample in which selection is done by giving everyprobable sample an equivalent opportunity of being selected and every item in the entire population to have an identicalchance of being involved in the sample. This procedure displayshow sampling is done without any replacement whichimplies once an item is selected for the sample it will never come in the sample again. Briefly, the conclusion of random sampling or simple random sampling is:

The research study will be using Purposive and Simple Random sampling. All these data will help in formulating as a very comprehensive case study. All sample units will be personally contacted and interviewed. Samples of 500 beneficiaries of various Panchayati Raj Institutions were taken to assess the impacts of the various development schemes/programmes on their lives.

CHAPTERISATION:

The Research work is consists on following chapters.

Chapter-1: Introduction of Research Study

The introduction covers the conceptual understanding and all adequate information that needs to be conveyed so as to introduce the present topic of research work.Research Methodology describes the techniques of measurement, which is the backbone of the thesis, which depicts the method of study.

Chapter -2: Review of Literature

Review of Literature highlights the background literature and the abstracts of the previous research findings, which has provided the baseline to proceed with this research work.

Chapter -3: Historical Background ofRural Development &Panchayti Raj System This chapter focuses the attention on analysis and interpretation of collection by Primary & Secondary data from the historical background .

Chapter -4:Organisation& Management Structure of Panchayti Raj System

In Sound organizational structure is an essential key for the success of an enterprise. Organization is a systematic bringing together of inter dependent parts to form a unified whole through which authority, coordination and control may be exercised to achieve a given purpose. This chapter covers the Panchayati Raj System as an organisation& management structure.This chapter focuses the attention on analysis and interpretation of collection by Primary & Secondary data from the historical background .

Chapter- 5: Role, Functions and Performance of Panchayti Raj System

This chapter covers theRole, Functions & Performance of Panchayti Raj System in Rajasthan.

Chapter- 6: Conclusion, Findings& Suggestions

This chapter throws its lights on findings, discussions and suggestions of the study.

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